

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0824

AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: GENERAL NASUTION ADDRESSES AIRLANGGA LAW STUDENTS

1. ON MARCH 27, GENERAL ABDUL HARIS NASUTION DELIVERED A RATHER OUTSPOKEN SPEECH TO THE STUDENT SENATE OF AIRLANGGA UNIVERSITY'S LAW FACULTY, ATTENDED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY, INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AIRLANGGA RECTOR. EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH WERE CARRIED ONLY IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIAN DAILY NEWS AND STUDENT WEEKLY MINGGUAN MAHASISWA, SUGGESTING OTHER PAPERS HAD RECEIVED A "D-NOTICE" ON THE SPEECH.

2. BASICALLY, NASUTION LAMENTED THE CHANGE IN THE CONDITION OF STUDENT POLITICS, COMPARING THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INCEPTION OF THE NEW ORDER, WHEN STUDENTS LED THE MASSES "IN CHANGING THE GOVERNMENT," TO THE PRESENT WHEN "THE STUDENT WORLD IS APATHETIC, AND PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS OR EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS FREELY." FORMERLY, NASUTION SAID, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED STUDENTS TO BE A RESOURCE FOR RENEWAL, BUT NOW IT CONSIDERS THEM A SECURITY PROBLEM. NASUTION URGED THE STUDENTS TO CONCENTRATE LESS ON THEIR STUDIES AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS, AND INSTEAD TO "STRUGGLE AND SUFFER" AGAINST "THE HISTORICAL ENEMY, VESTED INTERESTS." IN THIS REGARD, HE APPLAUDED

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THE EXAMPLES SET BY SUKARNHSAND MOHAMMAD HATTA IN 1920* WHEN

THESE LEADERS FUNCTIONED AS REVOLUTIONARIES AS WELL AS DILIGENT STUDENTS AND CAPABLE PROFESSIONAL MEN.

3. NASUTION ALSO CONDEMNED ABSENCE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN INDONESIA, AND ASSERTED THAT EDUCATION IN BENERAL "WAS IN CRITICAL CONDITION, BECAUSE THYIGOI HAS DEPARTED FROM THE IDEALS OF DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION OUTLINED IN THE 1945 CONSTITUTION, AND THE NUMBER OF ILLITERATE PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WHO CANNOT GO TO SCHOOL IS INCREASING." HE CONCLUDED BY URGING THE STUDENTS TO PLAN THEIR TACTICS AND STRATEGY CAREFULLY, AND TO "OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES" IN THE (UNSPECIFIED) STRUGGLE.

4. COMMENT: CLIPPINGS OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO POL - BAKER. HOWLAND

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